

Message Text

SECRET

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46/43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 066164

O R 121055Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2403

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHHRAN

S E C R E T SANAA 1278

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MAS, US, YE, JO, SA, UAR

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

REF: SANAA 1249, SANAA 1262 (NOTAL); AMMAN 3618 (NOTAL),
AMMAN 3628 (NOTAL); JIDDA 2901

DEPARTMENT PASS USCINCEUR

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF FOR ISA

KUWAIT PASS ABU DHABI

DAHHRAN FOR CHUSMTM

1. SUMMARY: ACTING FONMIN CLARIFIED SITUATION ON BORDER. AMBASSADOR URGES THAT IN ITS EFFORTS PROCURE EMERGENCY ARMS SUPPLY YARG BE CAREFUL TO COORDINATE WITH ITS SEVERAL POTENTIAL BENEFATORS. YARG HAS IT OUT WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR SUDTRY. FRICTION WITHIN CABINET CONTINUES. END SUMMARY

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2. I CALLED ON ACTING FONMIN ASNAG JULY 12 TO OBTAIN

MORE CURRENT INFO ON BORDER FIGHTING. ACTING FONMIN SAID THAT AS OF THIS MORNING PDRY FORCES OCCUPYING TWO SMALL PORTIONS OF YAR TERRITORY AND ARE BEING ACTIVELY RESISTED. TWO AREAS ARE NEAR HARIB (14 57N 45 30E) IN EAST AND MARAKHAB NEAR BAYDA (14 51N 4259E) IN CENTRAL ZONE. PDRY- TRAINED SABOTEURS QUITE ACTIVE IN AREA EAST OF IBB, PARTICULARLY DAMTH (14 02N 44 46E) AND NUSAYMA. IN THIS REGION, INTER ALIA, GROUP OF 80 SABOTEURS PRESENTLY SURROUNDED BY APPROXIMATELY 2,000 YAR FORCES IN AND ALL-OUT FIREFIGHT. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SKIRMISHES FURTHER TO WEST AND A PDRY BUILDUP IN BAB AL MANDAB AREA HAS BEEN NOTED BUT THESE OF LESS CONSEQUENCE THAN FIGHTING FURTHER EAST.

3. REMARKING ON FACT THAT YARG'S URGENT DEMARCHE HAVE BROUGHT US, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE, AND PERHAPS OTHERS OF WHICH WE UNAWARE, INTO THE ACT ON EMERGENCY SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS, I CAUTIONED THAT YARG (A) BE CAREFUL NOT TO EXAGGERATE ITS SITUATION AND B) TAKE THE LEAD IN ENSURING THAT ALL FRIENDS ARE PUT INTO THE FULL PICTURE AND LINES BE KEPT STRAIGHT. FOR INSTANCE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SAG, AS PRINCIPAL VEHICLE FOR LARGE SCALE RE-EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, BE TOLD OF YARG'S REQUEST FOR SOME EMERGENCY AMMO SUPPLY FROM JORDAN. IT SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED OF APPARENT UAE OFFER SUBSIDIZE EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS. YARG WOULD BE WELL ADVISED REASSURE SAG THAT WHILE IT FEELS COMPELLED PROBE ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES TO MEET ITS SHORT TERM PROBLEM, IT CONTINUES LOOK TO SAG AS ITS PRIME ALLY IN RESOLVING ITS MILITARY PROBLEMS.

4. ASNAG SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO PRESIDENT AND COULD ASSURE ME YARG WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS. HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT IRYANI THAT HE SEND A SPECIAL EMISSARY TO KING FAISAL TO GO OVER ENTIRE SITUATION WITH HIM.

5. ASNAG SAID THERE ONE OTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THIS FIELD. FAISAL HAD WITHIN PAST DAYS SENT TWO OFFICERS TO SECRET

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IRYANI TO INFORM HIM OF APPARENT NEW ATTITUDE OF EGYPT. THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT EVIDENTLY WILLING BE MORE HELPFUL ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR, PARTICULARLY SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION FOR EXISTING RUSSIAN INVENTORY. ASNAG SAID YARG WOULD WELCOME WHAT IT COULD GET BUT REMAINED SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT ALLEGED EGYPTIAN CHANGE OF HEART. HE NOTED THAT EGYPTIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HAD JUST VISITED ADEN

AND HAD MADE GRATUITOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT GAVE COMFORT TO LATTER'S POSITION. YARG INTENDED BE WELCOMING BUT WARY.

6. ASNAG INFORMED ME OF ONE WELCOME IF SLIGHTLY FARICAL DEVELOPMENT REGARDING YARG PROBLEMS WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR SUDAIRY. WHILE SUDAIRY RECENTLY ABSENT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF SAUDI AMBASSADORS, HIS DEPUTY AND CHARGE (MUHAMMAD JABR NADIR) HAD CABLED TO SAG FONOFF A REPORT THAT YARG WISHED SUDAIRY RECALLED. ON HIS RETURN LAST WEEKEND, AN APOPLETIC SUDAIRY HAD OFFERED HIS DEPUTY HOME AND APPROACHED ASNAG TO ASK WHETHER YARG HAD INDEED SUGGESTED HIS RECALL. ASNAG ASSURED PRINCE SUDAIRY THAT IT HAD NOT. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF AMBASSADOR'S ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN CONSTRUED IN CERTAIN QUARTERS AS DESIGNED BRING ABOUT REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT IRYANI. THESE ACTIVITIES HAD CAUSED CONCERN. SUBSEQUENTLY, SAID ASNAG, SUDAIRY CALLED ON PRESIDENT. HE BEGGED FORGIVENESS IF ANY OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN INTEREST OF YEMEN AND STRONGER SAUDI-YEMENI TIES HAD BEEN MIS-CONSTRUED. HE ASSURED IRYANI OF HIS TOTAL SUPPORT AND SAID THAT IF PRESIDENT WISHED HIS RECALL HE HAD ONLY TO SIGNIFY SO BY A GESTURE OF THE HAND AND SUDAIRY WOULD LEAVE YEMEN FOREVER.

7. ASNAG COMMENTED THAT SUDAIRY'S CONFRONTATION WITH PRESIDENT HAD USEFULLY CLEARED THE AIR. HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT SUDAIRY SOMEWHAT DERANGED AND FOR THIS REASON NO ONE COULD BE SURE MATTERS WOULD STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK. AS FURTHER EFFORT KEEP THEM THERE, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IF PRESIDENT IRYANI APPROVED HIS SUGGESTION FOR SPECIAL EMISSARY TO FAISAL TO MAKE SURE SECRET

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MILITARY ASSISTANCE COORDINATED, EMISSARY ALSO INFORM FAISAL OF YARG'S MISGIVINGS AS TO SOME OF SUDAIRY'S ACTIVITIES -- BUT AS A MATTER OF THE PAST NOW RESOLVED.

8. ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, ASNAG INFORMED ME THAT CONFLICT BETWEEN PRIMIN HAJRI AND DEPUTY PRIMIN/FONMIN NU'MAN REMAINED AT IMPASSE. HAJRI CONTINUED MAINTAIN HIS POSITION HE COULD NOT WORK WITH NU'MAN. NU'MAN STAYING ALOOFLY WITH FAMILY IN PARIS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF ONE MONTH SWING THROUGH ARAB CAPITALS. PRESIDENT FELT THERE NOTHING FURTHER HE COULD DO TO BRING ABOUT RECONCILIATION. WITHIN YARG LEADERSHIP, THERE CONTINUING THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO APPOINTMENT OF NU'MAN AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT, WITH ASNAG

SHIFTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MIN STATE
SAID TAKING OVER MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AS WELL AS
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, ASNAG SAID EFFORTS
STILL BEING MADE TO INDUCE HAJRI MODERATE HIS POSITION.
CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USCINCEUR AND SECDEF

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